

KANSAS COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS



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Memorial Day 2013



Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Winfield, Memorial Day 2013

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COMMISSION NOTES

The next KCVA Commission Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 19, 2013, at 10:00 AM** at the **Kansas Soldiers' Home, Fort Dodge, KS**. Any changes will be posted to our website.

Agency Contact Information

700 SW Jackson Street, Suite 1004

Topeka, KS 66603

(785) 296-3976

Fax: (785) 296-1462

<http://kcva.ks.gov/contact-us>



Signing of SB 136 (Veteran status on drivers' license), 2013 Legislative Session

MEMORIAL DAY 2013

Kansas Veterans' Cemetery WaKeeney

The Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at WaKeeney held its 8th Annual Memorial Day service on May 27th at 10:00 a.m. Over 500 people attended. The weather was beautiful, as Reverend Randy Gibbs played the bagpipes during the prelude. The service began with an "assembly call" by bugler, Mick Bollig, as the American Legion Riders paraded into the Cemetery. Several people in the crowd, including the Riders, created a human avenue of flags. The Kansas National Guard posted the colors, as Taylor Trickle sang the "National Anthem." Father Donald Pfannenstiel offered the invocation. Heidi Goff, Cemetery Manager, welcomed all those attending. U.S. Senator Jerry Moran addressed the audience, sharing that his own father was a World War II Veteran. Wayne Purinton, Vietnam Veteran, spoke of the heroic actions and loss that he saw and experienced in Vietnam; stressing the importance of honoring those who have given their lives to serve our Country. WaKeeney VFW Auxiliary members, Linda Pfeifer and



Senator Jerry Moran speaking to the crowd.

Marcella Baumgartner, placed wreaths at the base of the United States Flag, as Taylor Trickle sang a beautiful and moving song that he wrote, entitled "Never Forgotten". Myron Kisslinger and Jayden Goff released memorial balloons honoring the 80 Kansas soldiers who have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, while Reverend Gibbs played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes. A 4-man Cavalry re-enactment troop slowly walked across Garden 4, with an additional empty saddled horse and boots placed in the stirrups backwards, as a tribute to fallen soldiers. Chris Goble read the names of all those whose final resting place was at our Cemetery in the past year. WaKeeney VFW Post 3449 did the 3-volley salute, followed by Mick Bollig and Kregg Howell playing echo taps. Mick Bollig also sang the words to Taps. Heidi gave the closing remarks and Father Donald read a moving tribute, "A Soldier Died Today," along with giving the benediction. Coffee and donuts were offered to all those attending. We would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in this Memorial Day Service.

Kansas Veterans' Cemetery Fort Dodge



The Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Fort Dodge held its 10th Annual Memorial Day service at 11:00 a.m. This year, Fort Dodge had a record attendance of nearly 400 people. The weather was warm and breezy as the service began with several American Legion Riders riding through the cemetery, US Flags flowing from the back of their motorcycles. The Riders then lined up behind the flag poles, holding flags throughout the service. The Kansas Army National Guard posted colors, as Racheal Wilmore-Stegman sang the "National Anthem." Chaplain Jason Sperling offered the invocation, followed by Becki Salm, Administrative Assistant, giving a welcome and introduction of the speaker. Retired Colonel Norman Forbes honored all those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Reverend Jay Barker and Mark Zion sang "Amazing Grace" as Patriot Guard Riders placed wreaths honoring the

tomb of the unknowns and all of our fallen heroes. Two US Marines escorted Rebecca Escalante, mother of Marine Lance Corporal Brian Escalante, who was killed in action and buried at the Veterans' Cemetery. Then they released 80 balloons containing the names of the Kansas soldiers who have been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan. Most of the balloons were red, white and blue; however, two were gold which contained the names of the two soldiers who are buried at Fort Dodge. A Marine then read roll call of those veterans who have been buried at the cemetery over the past year. Reverend Barker and Mark sang, "If You're Reading This" while the balloons were being released; most were moved to tears. Dodge City VFW Post 1714 then gave the 3-volley salute and played Taps. Becki offered the closing remarks, followed by Chaplain Sperling giving the Benediction and blessing. Immediately following the service, an angel was placed at a child's grave that is on top of the hill adjacent to the cemetery. The staff at Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Fort Dodge would like to thank all those who attended and participated in this year's service.

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MEMORIAL DAY 2013

Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Fort Riley

In spite of the threat of ominous weather, close to 200 veterans and their families from the Flint Hills Region braved the elements to honor their departed loved ones at the Memorial Day Ceremony. The Junction City High School JROTC provided honors to the nation in conjunction with the First Infantry Division Band from Fort Riley. The Isis Shriners from Salina provided the MC in retired Staff Sergeant Timothy Fowler, and the renowned Highland Bagpipes, who performed "Amazing Grace" and postlude music support. The guest speaker, Chaplain Bill Fry from Fort Riley, moved the crowd with a personalized and touching tribute to veterans past and present, and to their families. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the firing squad from the Kansas National Guard provided the firing of volleys, with Taps provided by the 11D Band, who earlier had played prelude music and a stirring rendition of "America the Beautiful." After the ceremony, the Cemetery Staff and volunteers provided a smorgasbord of homemade and bakery refreshments to those who attended.



Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Winfield

The annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery in Winfield, Kansas, was held on May 27th, 2013, at 10:00am. Although there was the threat of severe weather, we only had a slight shower. The ceremony went on as scheduled with a turnout of approximately 550 spectators. The speaker this year was Vice Chairman for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, Jim Buterbaugh. Special guests were Reatha Juden and her daughter Jacey Juden. They released our balloons that represented the Service men and women from the State of Kansas that have died in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Reatha's son, SGT Tyler Juden, was one of the names inside the balloons.



MARYSVILLE FIELD OFFICE

If you have never been to Marysville, Kansas, you should consider a trip along US Highway 36 to visit this charming town in Marshall County in Northeast Kansas. According to Wikipedia, Marysville was located on the Oregon Trail, the Mormon Trail, the Pony Express Route, St. Joe Road, Overland Stage, the Military Road, and the Otoe-Missouria Trail, making it a very popular place in the 1800's. Downtown is home to the only original "Home Station #1" along the Pony Express route.

Today, this historic town continues to be home for many businesses and a center for commerce. The Union Pacific Railroad is a major employer in the county and over 60 trains pass through daily. The Landoll Corporation, a developer of world class agriculture and transportation products, is another company, with over 500 employees. Marysville has almost 3,300 residents according to the 2010 census.

The KCVa Field Office is located in historic downtown at the Area Agency on Aging Offices and senior center. The office is responsible for providing services for almost 7,000 veterans in 7 counties. Mark Antoine has been at the helm for almost three years as the local Veteran Services Representative. He originally hails from St. Louis, but moved to California as a child. In 2009, his travels brought him to Kansas, and he enjoyed the pace of life so much that he decided to call Kansas home. He has studied emergency medicine, psychology, and drug and alcohol counseling in college, and he is currently a certified substance abuse counselor. He is a member of the US Army Reserves and has over 19 years of active and reserve service. He is a combat veteran, having deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mark takes great pride and satisfaction in helping veterans and family members, when they previously felt hopeless and about to give up on all of the paperwork and time involved with filing a claim. Mark says, "There is nothing like the feeling of one soldier helping another."

Mark is married and has five children at home between him and his wife. Mark is a self-proclaimed homebody who loves the title of Mr. Fix-it. He enjoys spending time with the kids and grandkids, camping, and playing with their four dogs.

Mark invites you to stop by the field office at the Helvering Center, 111 South 8th, next time you are in the area.

UPCOMING ENHANCED MOBILE UNIT VISITS.

✦ Belleville Dollar General Parking Lot	June 4, 8 am – 5 pm
✦ Salina Wal-Mart Parking Lot	June 5, 8 am – 5 pm
✦ Salina Wal-Mart Parking Lot	June 6, 8 am – 2:30 pm
✦ Gray Area Retiree presentation – Training Facility, Salina	June 8, 8 am – 3 pm
✦ Heartland Military Day, KS National Guard Museum, Topeka	June 8, 8 am – 5 pm
✦ Smith Center Dollar General Parking Lot	June 10, 11 am – 6 pm
✦ Phillipsburg Dollar General Parking Lot	June 11, 8:30 am – 5 pm
✦ Norton Dollar General Parking Lot	June 12, 8 am – 3 pm
✦ American Veterans Travelling Tribute, VFW Post, Hutchinson	June 12 – 16, 8 am – 8 pm
✦ Lawrence American Legion Post 14 Shrimp Peel, Parking Lot	June 21, 12 pm – 8 pm

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